Sub Periosteal and Intra Ethmoidal Displacement of Gutta Percha Cone Following Endodontic Intervention of Maxillary First Molar

Desplazamiento Subperióstico e Intraetmoidal del Cono de Gutapercha después de la Intervención Endodóntica del Primer Molar Superior

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ABSTRACT: Foreign bodies in the ethmoid sinus are uncommon, and endodontic gutta percha displacement is even more rare. We present and discuss a case of displacement of gutta percha into the ethmoid sinus following root canal intervention of a maxillary first molar which presumably migrated through the maxillary sinus. There have been reports on the displacement of tooth roots or implants into the maxillary sinus. However, we know of only one such report on the migration of a gutta-percha point into the ethmoid sinus.

KEY WORDS: gutta percha, ethmoidal sinus, displacement.

INTRODUCTION

Endodontic intervention is one of the most common outpatient dental procedures which rarely involves serious complications. However, accidents do occur leading to displacement of either root canal fillers or sealers or even gutta percha, and the most common areas of displacement include the maxillary sinuses and sub periosteal tissues (Kılınc et al., 2016). Although, there are reports of displaced foreign bodies in ethmoid sinus (Elango & Htun, 1993; Massaro-Giordano et al., 1998; Haben et al., 2003), to the best of our knowledge, there is only one previously reported case of gutta percha migration into the ethmoidal sinus (Ishikawa et al., 2004). We aim to present and discuss the aetiology and management of such a rare event.

CASE REPORT

A 31-year-old Saudi female was referred to the maxillofacial clinic with symptoms of maxillary sinusitis including tenderness in the right infraorbital region and nasal congestion. The patient gave history of multiple root canal interventions on her maxillary right first molar for over a year. Although the final restoration of the crown had been completed, she developed tenderness in the right infraorbital region six months later with intra oral sinus drainage over the buccal aspect of the same tooth for which the general dentist did gutta percha tracing of the sinus tract. The root canal was treated again, but the symptoms did not subside. Her final panoramic radiograph revealed extrusion of root canal filling material from all three roots and the probable intrusion of gutta percha into the sinus floor over the mesial root, the tooth was deemed non-restorable. Incidentally, a slender radio opaque object was noted over the medial wall of the right orbit (Fig. 1). Minimally traumatic extraction of maxillary right first molar was done followed by Cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) acquisition to evaluate and confirm the panoramic findings.

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Received: 2021-01-30  Accepted: 2021-03-20
On CBCT evaluation, a perforation over the lateral wall of maxillary sinus and a sub periosteal gutta percha with its tip curved over the buccal aspect of socket of first molar (Fig. 2a) and slender foreign body in the region of the right ethmoidal sinus were confirmed. The foreign body was located in the osteomeatal complex starting at the maxillary osteum antero inferiorly running along the ethmoid infundibulum and extending superiorly up to the posterior ethmoid sinus with the tip being stopped by the ethmoidal roof or fossa ethmoidalis, finally resting along the lamina papyracea medial to the right orbital wall (Fig. 2b). The patient complained of pressure over the back of the right eye with no changes in her vision. She also gave history of repeated bouts of sinusitis for which she was under symptomatic management. She was not informed about the presence of the foreign body or the displaced gutta percha sub periosteally (Fig. 3). The foreign body from the ethmoid sinus was removed under local anaesthesia using an endoscope through a lateral antrostomy along with the subperiosteal gutta percha from buccal aspect of the extracted first molar socket. The foreign body was confirmed as a gutta-percha point 18 mm long (Fig. 4). The postoperative course was uneventful and satisfactory with no repeated sinus infection.
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The most commonly found foreign bodies are displaced fractured roots of teeth and in some instances, whole displaced teeth. Other foreign bodies include dental burs and implants. In literature there are very few reported cases of foreign bodies in the ethmoid sinus of which only one is about a migrated gutta percha cone through the maxillary sinus, the others include a ball point pen, floor implant, an air gun pellet, and a nail or wooden foreign body. While most of them were related to the orbital floor (Murthy et al., 1994; Yamaguchi et al., 2007; Kilinc et al.), As per our knowledge this report is only a second case of gutta percha displacement into the ethmoid sinus along with a sub periosteal displacement of gutta percha during the buccal sinus tract tracing that we are aware.

However the route of the displaced gutta percha cone was not clear, migration through the lateral wall perforation of the right maxillary sinus seemed plausible, because the initial radiograph from the referral clinic, showed a projection of gutta-percha points from the roots into the maxillary sinus. As there is no direct anatomical communication between the ethmoid and maxillary sinus, it is most likely that the gutta-percha point got displaced from the maxillary sinus into the nasal cavity through the osteomeatal complex, and then resting into the ethmoid sinus during the course of its displacement. It is therefore important to have an accountability of intra canal obturation materials along with judicious use of force during tracing of sinus tract and canal obturation to avoid displacement of gutta percha into adjacent tissue spaces.

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